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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

October 1, 1921.

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\* To what extent are you as a fruit or vegetable \*  
\* specialist cooperating with the county agents, the \*  
\* home demonstration agents and the club leaders in \*  
\* educating housewives and other consumers to recog- \*  
\* nize the leading varieties of fruits and vegeta- \*  
\* bles when selecting or purchasing for home use? \*  
\* This topic is open for discussion. \*

\* Improvement of living conditions on farms, is, \*  
\* and always has been, an important phase of the ex- \*  
\* tension work. The home vegetable garden, home \*  
\* orchard, shade trees, lawn and flowers all make \*  
\* farm life attractive and pleasant. State special- \*  
\* ists in a number of states are giving attention to \*  
\* home betterment. This number of the "Horticulturist" \*  
\* briefly summarizes the reports sent in by a few of \*  
\* the state specialists. \*

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Office of Horticultural and Pomological Investigations  
and States Relations Service Cooperating.  
U. S. Department of Agriculture,  
Washington, D.C.



## Reports from State Specialists.

Mr. H. W. Harvey, Field Agent in landscape work of the State College of Agriculture, University of Georgia, whose headquarters are at Athens, Ga., writes as follows:

"The September "Extension Horticulturist" has just come to hand and has been read with interest. The question which occupies such an important place on the front page, certainly shall have an answer from Georgia.

The extension horticulturists in this state are stressing home orchards. During the year Mr. George H. Firor has supervised demonstrations in planting, pruning, making and applying of both winter and summer sprays, and management of 80 demonstration home orchards totaling about 4,000 trees. Home orchard clubs were organized in 8 counties, and each club member attended the demonstrations in his community. In this way 275 orchards were directly influenced. County agents reported 7,642 demonstration home orchards. This number includes those mentioned above. The others profited by the advice and information sent out by the division in reply to requests from the agents and in many cases special trips were made to assist the agents in giving demonstrations.

We have no vegetable gardening specialist. Every man in the division has his share of inquiries to answer. Requests for information about insect pests and plant diseases and their control have come to the division, in some cases necessitating special trips. Some requests for special information as to kinds of truck crops best to plant for market, and cultural methods best for their growth have been received and answered. Each specialist gives all the help asked as he goes about his regular line of work. This is how we are helping to provide fruit and vegetables for the farmers of Georgia.

Reduced appropriations for extension work has made necessary the cutting down of the number of workers in the horticultural division, one man only being allowed to the work with home orchards and gardens. The work in landscape gardens is to be discontinued despite the fact that there are more calls for help in that line than all others put together. Requests for landscape work have come from more than 100 counties in the state. While landscape work is not strictly production in the sense in which we consider orchard and garden work, there is nothing, however, that will more quickly make its influence felt in a community than the improvement of a farm home or country school ground. The cost of the improvement may be almost nothing, yet the return in the increased value of a place is many hundred per cent; or stating it another way, the value of a farm may be increased easily 10 to 25 per cent; one authority says "25 to 50 per cent." Since this work was taken up 77 counties have been visited and 24 new counties have asked for help. Wherever possible native trees and shrubs are used and plants that can be had either from the woods or from the neighbors so that the cash outlay is nothing. All that is required to carry out a plan is the time and labor. So much can be done at off times that these are not counted as cost, and the simplest home may be made most attractive."



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Mr. J. A. McClintock, Physiologist of the Georgia Experiment Station at Experiment, Georgia, writes as follows:

"In the "Extension Horticulturist" for September 1, I noted with interest the figures relative to the farm orchards. No doubt these figures are correct, but in the south as the cotton crop proves less profitable the farmers are turning more to food crops and in this state are talking of home orchards where in the past they have been in the habit of buying their fruit if they got any. In the south at least it would seem the logical time to stress home orchards, but to make these a success the growers should be advised to avoid some of the mistakes which caused lack of interest in many home orchards in the past such as trees untrue to name or even seedling trees brought from tree agents whose only interest was to sell the trees and get the money. From our observations here it would seem that growers could have home orchards and vineyards which would supply them with peaches, plums, pears and grapes from May to October in the form of fresh fruit. The commercial peach season in this state lasts about two months yet from our tests here we know that the home orchardist could readily have good peaches for another two months as some of the later varieties are just now getting ripe here, and we have had almost a succession to date.

Certain varieties of plums have produced abundant crops here in spite of the presence of plum wilt in our southern soils, and even the plums may never again prove profitable commercially in this state, there is no reason why the home orchardist should not have good plums of several varieties.

With the development of several strains of blight proof pears equal to the Kieffer in quality and very much more resistant to fire blight there is no reason why the home orchard in the south should not have pears.

We generally think that the grape season in the south begins and ends with the Scuppernong, yet there are some fine varieties of bunch grapes which ripen a month before the above and withstand diseases and weather conditions which are against some of the bunch grapes such as Concord. The work at this station has resulted in several varieties of Muscadine grapes better in quality than the Scuppernong which ripen after the above at intervals up to frost, thus making a succession of grapes.

The Department of Agriculture and the state experiment stations can supply extension men with data as to varieties, etc., and with this data there should be a stimulus to home orcharding which will result in many new orchards and the possible replacing of some which have been lost through neglect."

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Mr. C. Woolsey, Extension Horticulturist of Arkansas, writes us the following splendid letter:

I noticed by the "Extension Horticulturist" that you have asked some rather important questions bearing on the home orchard, and its relation to the economics of farming. I have heard various statements made that the farmer should buy his fruits and also that the farm home orchard was dis-





appearing. In my estimation, it would be a great mistake to drop the home orchard from the extension work. In a great many sections of Arkansas and other states as well, this is the only practical kind of fruit work that should be undertaken. I was out in one of the mountain sections about 30 miles from the railroad last week and regret very much that I found practically no fruit trees on the farms. I saw many babies and children who were in need of good fruit and fruit juice.

It is my firm belief that the farmers should begin to live at home and should revive the planting of good home orchards. Our motto in Arkansas is, "A good home orchard on every farm," but, of course, this is something to be looked for in the future. I am starting the home orchard campaign this winter through the county agents. I have worked out a one acre home fruit orchard. The nurseries have agreed to furnish this for \$24.00. However, I believe that due to the economic condition in the south part of Ark., that we will ask the farmers to plant only a part of this at one time. The nurseries have agreed to furnish any part at the same rate. Every county agent is asked how many of these home orchards he wants to attempt this year. It is understood that where these orchards are planted out by the farmer, that they should be cared for as a demonstration plot.

I am hoping to get a number of these started this year and keep pounding at them for more. I was down to visit two of my demonstration plots in Johnson County and found things looking fine. On the nitrate plot on peaches, I found a very pronounced gain in favor of the nitrate. Also on the apple plot I found that we had practically no defoliation from various leaf diseases during the summer, while near-by orchards were entirely defoliated."

We regret that space will not permit reproduction of the variety lists that Mr. Woolsey appended to his letter and which he uses in connection with his work. Anyone desiring a copy of these lists will be provided with them from this office.

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The following description by Prof. C. W. Mathews, Horticulturist of the University of Kentucky, will undoubtedly prove of great interest to everyone interested in the methods of conducting field demonstrations:

"The Kentucky State Horticultural Society in cooperation with the local fruit growers association and the extension forces of the University held a two days field meeting in the orchards of Henderson County on Sept. 5 and 6. Unlike the conditions in most sections of the central states, many of the orchards of Henderson County are bending under a superb load of fruit which will bring the growers large returns.

Automobiles from many points assembled at Henderson Monday morning and drove to the orchard of Rev. E. McCollom on the Corydon road. The farm is notable as the chief source and inspiration of the orchard development in this section. Mr. McCollom became the owner 26 years ago. At that time a fair proportion of the farm was planted in apples, but some of the trees were cut out to make room for more corn, thus making clear the scanty appreciation at that time of orcharding as a source of revenue. One or two

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The first part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the general principles of the theory of the structure of the atom. It is shown that the structure of the atom is determined by the laws of quantum mechanics, and that the structure of the atom is determined by the laws of quantum mechanics.

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successful crops following led Mr. McCollom to begin a careful study of the orchard business, with the result that in a few years the gross returns from his orchard frequently reached from one and a half to three times the original cost of the farm, and he has already received offers for this year's crop amounting to above \$1,000 per acre for a portion of his orchard. The success of Mr. McCollom has naturally resulted in rather extensive planting during the past 15 years, so that the district has become an important orchard center with many young trees still approaching the bearing age.

The program began with an address and demonstration on "Pruning of Young Trees," by H. E. Niswonger, Extension Specialist of the Agricultural College. Mr. McCollom gave a brief outline of the history of his orchard; Prof. H. W. Anderson of the University of Illinois spoke upon "Blotch and Scab Infestation," and Mr. L. B. Scott of the Bureau of Plant Industry, spoke upon the "Value of Individual Tree Study." The afternoon program closed with a spray gun demonstration by Messrs. Williams and Denton of the McCollom orchard. The addresses which involved no demonstration were made in a beautiful grove on the lawn of Mr. McCollom, and the basket lunch at noon was enjoyed under the same delightful surroundings.

At an evening meeting held in Henderson a series of picture films illustrating orchard troubles and practices, loaned by the U. S. Department of Agriculture was shown visitors; this being followed by a round table discussion of orchard problems. The second days program was held in the orchard of Mr. W. H. Stites, President of the State Horticultural Society. Mr. Niswonger gave another address upon pruning; this time with a demonstration upon trees of bearing age. Prof. R. H. Roberts of Wisconsin gave a stimulating address upon the "Fruitfulness of Apples." Other addresses were made during the meeting by Mr. Louis Hillenmeyer, Lexington nurseryman, upon "Small Fruits," by Dean Cooper of the Agricultural College upon "Cooperation," while others were given by C. W. Mathews and A. J. Olney of the Horticultural staff of the College. The bountiful basket dinner furnished by the visiting orchardists was supplemented by unlimited supplies of the famous Kentucky burgoo and barbecued meats, prepared on the farm.

It was unanimously agreed that this was the most successful field meeting ever held in Kentucky and it will undoubtedly establish a precedent that will be followed in 1922 and subsequent years."

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Mr. H. E. Nichols, Extension Specialist in Horticulture at Ames, Iowa, writes as follows:

"I have just received the "Extension Horticulturist" for September and note that you have asked some very pertinent questions in regards to the farm orchard. As you know, here in Iowa, our fruit extension work has been directed almost entirely at the farm orchard, during the past 8 or 10 years. Of course, it is realized that we do not have any real commercial apple districts here in Iowa, and only a comparatively small number of commercial orchards. A very small per cent of our crop is being shipped out of the State. In fact, very few growers even have to pack their fruit, as they can sell most of it right in the orchard.





In our fruit extension work to date, we certainly feel that it is possible to interest the farmer in growing his own fruit. We have found that the number of orchards being sprayed in the state has increased from 479 in 72 counties reporting in 1917 to 3,521 orchards in 52 counties in 1920. We have noticed, and in our work have emphasized the fact that the farmer who does not grow his own fruit will not buy it in sufficient quantities to keep his family in fresh fruit during most of the year. We have also found considerable opposition to spraying by the average farmer, due to the fact that spraying comes at the time when he is particularly busy with other types of farm work. This is no doubt true, but at the same time, we have emphasized the fact that in this part of the country, that they can spray their orchards when it is too wet in the fields, and coupled with this a development of spray rings in Iowa during the past two years where a group of farmers have gone together purchased a power sprayer and hired a man to do the work, has had a great deal to offset this difficulty.

It is hard to estimate the value of fresh fruit in returns of health and happiness, but I have attended demonstrations in the spring of the year where the owner of a farm orchard has taken great pride in bringing out a basketful of good clean sprayed apples for his neighbors to enjoy. Coupled with this, during the past 8 years, since we have been holding summer spraying demonstrations in farm orchards in Iowa, we have found that on an average the fruit on a sprayed apple tree was worth \$6.75 more than if the tree had not been sprayed, after the cost of spray had been deducted. On an average, spraying, during these past 8 years has increased the yield from 2.85 bushels on the unsprayed trees to 6.21 bushels on the sprayed trees. In addition to this, the fruit on the sprayed trees was found to be 76.31% clean while that on the average unsprayed tree was only 12.61% clean. These results were obtained at an average cost of 42.1 ¢ per tree for spraying, which included materials, labor and use of outfit.

We are planning on keeping this work going at full speed, although slightly set back this year with a very light crop, we feel that it will not be very much of a detriment to the work.

"Coupled with the care of the orchards already in bearing, we are starting some work this year to help increase plantings. It is our idea that an orchard of from 25 to 40 trees, depending upon the size of the family, and it includes apples, plums, cherries and pears, is plenty large enough to supply the needs of the average family. This size orchard requires comparatively little time for proper care, and I believe can be very readily worked into the management of the farm."

#### Important Meetings in the Near Future.

The American Pomological Society will hold its 38th annual convention in Toledo, Ohio, December 7 to 9 inclusive, in connection with the National Farmers Exposition held from December 5 to 11, inclusive. No doubt a number of horticultural extension men have already made their plans to be present.

The Vegetable Growers' Association of America will hold its annual convention at Albany, N. Y., November 1 to 5, inclusive. A letter from





Mr. C. W. Waid, Organization Secretary of the association advises that plans are being made for an extension conference on the afternoon and evening of Monday October 31, to which all vegetable extension workers are invited.

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The above notices of annual horticultural meetings raises a question relative to state specialists attending these meetings. We are often asked to use our influence with the administrative officers of States Relations Service and the Committee on Conferences to have special calls issued for the fruit and vegetable men to attend the annual meetings of the various National organizations. While we fully realize the desirability of having state specialists present at these meetings, it would be out of the question to authorize the travel and other expense on extension funds. Each director is provided with a fund for out-of-state travel and any expenditure in excess of this must be authorized by the States Relations Service in Washington. We have had this up with the administrative officers of States Relations Service on several occasions, the matter having been referred to the committee some 2 or 3 times, but owing to lack of funds it has been impossible to authorize the expenditure. At sometime in the near future it is hoped that all of the fruit and vegetable specialists may be brought together for sectional conferences pertaining to their lines of work exclusively, but it is not the policy of those in charge of the work to authorize expenditure of extension funds for the purpose of bringing the specialists together in connection with meetings called for other purposes.

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During the latter part of July and the first half of August, Mr. F. L. Mulford, Landscape Specialist of this office, made an extension trip through the south inspecting the farmstead and school improvements conducted under the direction of the home demonstration agents.

Mr. W. R. Beattie, Extension Horticulturist, has just completed an 1,800 mile automobile trip through the principal trucking sections of New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. During the trip some very interesting things relative to both extension methods and vegetable production were observed, but space will not permit a report upon them.

The editors of the "Extension Horticulturist" desire to express their thanks to those who have contributed the articles and letters contained in this number. Our object in getting out this little monthly circular is to serve as an exchange of information relative to methods of conducting extension work. Other workers want to know how you are going about your work - tell us so that all can profit by your methods and results.

W. R. Beattie, Extension Horticulturist.

C. P. Close, Extension Pomologist.

